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Letter dated 1 May 2015 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to my letter dated 26 April 2015 regarding the tragic incidents that took place in the locality of Kass in the State of South Darfur (S/2015/291), you will find attached the statement issued by the spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which has confirmed, among many other serious events, that UNAMID assassinated in cold blood four innocent civilians inside the camp of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur.

I would highly appreciate it if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Hassan Hamid **Hassan**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 1 May 2015 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the killing of four civilians by the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

29 April 2015

1. On Thursday, 23 April 2015, African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) forces fired on a group of 40 civilians that was on the move. Those civilians had no connection whatsoever to the incident in which a UNAMID vehicle was stolen. The UNAMID forces killed two of the civilians on the spot and abducted four others, who were subsequently killed in cold blood at the Operation's base.

2. Afterwards, thousands of the victims' relatives surround the UNAMID base and threatened to storm it. They were demanding revenge for the killing of their relatives and punishment of the perpetrators.

3. On Friday, 24 April 2015, local and state officials travelled to the location where the incident had occurred, in order to contain tensions, calm civilians and protect Operation forces.

4. On 24 April 2015, UNAMID sent a force to Kass, in contravention of the agreement not to send forces reached with the government at a meeting that had been held at the office of the governor of Southern Darfur in Niyala, as that would escalate the situation in Kass. The UNAMID force fired on the assembled civilians, as well as the members of the security committee and notable figures from the local administration who had been attempting to calm the situation. As a result, a seventh Sudanese civilian was killed and several others, including women, were injured.

5. In view of the tense situation and the anger of the civilian population, and in keeping with the responsibility of the Sudanese Government to ensure the security and safety of its citizens, in the first place, and also to protect the Operation, something that the Government continues to do, the state government met with the civilians who had surrounded the UNAMID base and the victims' relatives and asked them to withdraw and end their siege. The civilians and the victims' relatives responded to the government's request. However, they insisted that they would once again besiege the UNAMID base and avenge the killing of their kin if the Operation did not meet their demands, namely, the punishment of the perpetrators and payment of compensation to the victims' relatives in accordance with local customs.

6. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs regrets that, instead of doing its duty to offer condolences to the victims' relatives and the Government of the Sudan, the Operation and its leadership in the Sudan, New York and Addis Ababa have sought to make criminals of the innocent victims and the citizens of the Sudan, in a blatant attempt to cover up the heinous crime that its forces committed in Kass. Such actions are a violation of its mandate and contrary to all humanitarian and international customs and laws.

7. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs once again stresses that the Government of the Sudan is committed to fulfilling its duties towards its citizens and to foster and protect their rights. It reiterates its call to UNAMID leadership at the African Union and the United Nations to take such measures as are necessary in order to punish the perpetrators and restore the rights of the citizens of the Sudan and their dead. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also calls on the Operation to acknowledge that its action was wrong and to apologize for it.